RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EAGLE MOUNTAIN LANDFILL

Whereas, Joshua Tree National Monument was recognized as a national treasure and designated a national park after passage of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act to preserve this unique transition zone between the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts and,

Whereas, Joshua Tree National Park preserves remarkable scenic, recreational, ecological, historical and archaeological resources for the benefit of the American People, and over one million visitors from all over the world come to Joshua Tree National Park each year for its unobstructed views, abundant wildlife, outstanding recreational opportunities and dark night skies while making a significant contribution to the local and regional economy and,

Whereas, the proposed Eagle Mountain Landfill would deposit up to 20,000 tons of trash each day for 117 years in remote canyons, hillsides and abandoned mining pits that would be surrounded on three sides by Joshua Tree National Park's federally designated wilderness, and would harm Joshua Tree National Park's air quality, wildlife, night sky resources, wilderness character and visitor experience while new research shows that the proposed landfill would artificially inflate populations of predatory ravens and coyotes that would adversely impact 75% of Joshua Tree National Park's threatened desert tortoise habitat, as well as critical tortoise habitat outside the park,

Therefore, be it resolved that the San Bernardino County Democratic Party (SBCDP) opposes the sitting of the proposed Eagle Mountain Landfill next to Joshua Tree National Park and stresses that alternative sites for such a landfill must be identified and considered by the Los Angeles County Department of Sanitation, Kaiser Ventures and Bureau of Land Management;

Be it further resolved that the SBCDP demands that robust solid waste reduction and recycling programs should be implemented in Los Angeles County prior to any further consideration of said landfill and urges that any supplemental EIS issued by the Bureau of Land Management for the Eagle Mountain Landfill must include an NPS alternative to reunite this project's Bureau of Land Management exchange lands and Kaiser Ventures lands back to Joshua Tree National Park for development as a historic mining district to teach future generations about the California desert's rich mining history.

Submitted by: Don Krouse

Co-sponsors: CDP Rural Caucus, CDP Region 19, the Morongo Basin Democratic Club.

Recommended for Adoption by the SBCDCC Executive Board, April 20, 2013

Adopted by the San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee

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Date

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Valerie Lichtman, Recording Secretary – SBCDCC

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Chris Robles, Chair – SBCDCC